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IN THE CLAIMS:

Delete Claims 1-8.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying an end point terminal within a service group of end point terminals as a to-be-used terminal, where each of said terminals is characterized by an ID comprising the steps of:

sending a message to said end point terminals, specifying a response criterion, requesting idle end point terminals that meet said response criterion to respond;

receiving one or more responses from said idle end point terminals that meet said response criterion;

based on a selected one of said responses, modifying said response criterion to form a changed response criterion; and

based on information related to said response criterion either selecting the end point terminal that supplied the selected one of said responses as the to-be-used terminal, or returning to said step of sending a message, where the specified response criterion being said changed response criterion.

wherein said response criterion specifies an end point terminal IDs range by providing an x value and a y value of, so that either

only end point terminals that are included in said range send a response message, if they are idle, or

only idle end point terminals determine whether they are included in said range and are thus enabled to send a response message

each of said end point terminals, in determining whether its ID is within range of end point terminal IDs, compares its ID to said x value and to said y value, in the process subtracting. The method of 8 where each of said end point terminals, in determining whether its ID is within range of end point terminal IDs by comparing its ID to said x value and to said y value, subtracts from its ID a value related to a constant supplied in said message, where the subtraction is performed in modulus arithmetic.

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10. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying an end point terminal within a service group of end point terminals as a to-be-used terminal, where each of said terminals is characterized by an ID comprising the steps of:

sending a message to said end point terminals, specifying a response criterion, requesting idle end point terminals that meet said response criterion to respond;

receiving one or more responses from said idle end point terminals that meet said response criterion;

based on a selected one of said responses, modifying said response criterion to form a changed response criterion; and

based on information related to said response criterion either selecting the end point terminal that supplied the selected one of said responses as the to-be-used terminal, or returning to said step of sending a message, where the specified response criterion being said changed response criterion.

wherein said response criterion specifies an end point terminal IDs range by providing an x value and a y value of, so that either

only end point terminals that are included in said range send a response message, if they are idle, or

only idle end point terminals determine whether they are included in said range and are thus enabled to send a response message

each of said end point terminals, in determining whether its ID is within range of end point terminal IDs, compares its ID to said x value and to said y value, in the process adding ~~The method of 8 where each of said end point terminals, in determining whether its ID is within range of end point terminal IDs by comparing its ID to said x value and to said y value,~~ adds to said x value and to said y value a value related to a constant supplied in said message, where the addition is performed in modulus arithmetic.

Delete Claims 11-12.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying an end point terminal within a service group of end point terminals as a to-be-used terminal, where each of said terminals is characterized by a unique fixed ID comprising the steps of:

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sending a message to said end point terminals, specifying a response criterion,
requesting idle end point terminals that meet said response criterion to respond;
receiving one or more responses from said idle end point terminals that meet said
response criterion;
based on a selected one of said responses, modifying said response criterion to
form a changed response criterion; and
based on information related to said response criterion either selecting the end
point terminal that supplied the selected one of said responses as the to-be-used terminal,
or returning to said step of sending a message, where the specified response criterion
being said changed response criterion ~~The method of claim 12~~ where the unique ID's of
end point terminals are members of a set that includes numbers A through A+N, where A
is a preselected integer, and N is the number of end point terminals in said service group.

Delete Claims 14-20.